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3743

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Smith, et al.

Group Art Unit: 3743

SERIAL NO.: 09/978,131

Examiner: Aaron J. Lewis

FILED: October 16, 2001

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TREATING BREATHING GASES

RESPONSE

RECEIVED

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 29 2004  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SIR:

This is a response to the March 8, 2004 Official Action in the above application. The period for response without extra charges expires June 8, 2004. In response to this official action, Applicant is canceling the rejected claim 7 leaving the allowed claims 1-6 pending in the application. Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance.

Kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.